

*scalaris*, as well as *colombeliana*, should rightfully be separated generically or subgenerically from *Assimineca*, Heude in 1882 already proposed *Solenomphala* for *scalaris* as a subgenus of *Assimineca*. Moreover, if both these Chinese species, *scalaris* and *colombeliana*, be further confirmed in detail comparison that they are congeneric with *Ekadonta shanensis* Rao, still Heude's name *Solenomphala* will have precedence over *Ekadonta* Rao.

### LYMNAEA CONTRACTA CURRIER

BY CALVIN GOODRICH

The mollusk was described by Currier in 1868 from shells taken in Higgins Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan. From time to time for seventy years thereafter, additional specimens were collected, but always from the same body of water. It has never been found in Houghton Lake, into which Higgins Lake discharges, or in Marl Lake, a small feeder of Higgins Lake and probably once an arm of it.

The most striking characteristic of *L. contracta* is the pinched, flattened, strongly shouldered body whorl. The plaited columella, for one character, justified Mr. Frank Collins Baker in connecting the shell closely with *L. emarginata*. In one form or another, this species is in all the lakes of the Higgins group and in at least one stream of it. *L. contracta* has not been found living, and from this Dr. Bryant Walker suspected that the shell is an occupant of deep water "that only comes to shore occasionally."<sup>1</sup> Still earlier, he ventured the opinion that it might be "semi-fossil" or "extinct."<sup>2</sup>

Among mollusks taken by Dr. Laurence C. Stuart in Barney Lake of Beaver Island, Lake Michigan, in 1939 were two examples of *contracta*. Though without soft parts, the shells were quite plainly of animals recently alive. I myself visited the lake in July, 1940. I came upon numbers of *contracta* which currents had brought together in shallow depressions of the lake bed, but yet did not see a living specimen. It is probably relatively rare. The fact of this rarity, both in Higgins and Barney lakes,

<sup>1</sup> F. C. Baker, *The Lymnaeidae of North and Middle America*, 1911, p. 434.

<sup>2</sup> Bryant Walker, *NAUTILUS*, 6, 1892, p. 33.

its geographical discontinuity and the resemblance to *L. emarginata*, which is common in the two regions, provides ground for the belief that *contracta* is not a true species, but simply an environmental variation. The identity of the shells has been verified by Mr. Baker.

Barney Lake lies in an irregularly shaped pocket, one end of which is a curving sand dune. A little over this dune is Lake Michigan. The owner of Barney told me that the water level varies with the general level of the large lake, and that at one time it went almost completely dry. This was when Lake Michigan was in a cycle of falling levels. So it may be that the molluscan fauna of the inland Barney Lake has to be renewed at periods and *contracta* has to be evolved from reintroduced *L. emarginata*.

---

#### A COMPARISON OF YOUNG *HELMINTHOGLYPTA UMBILICATA* AND *H. DUPETITHOUARSI*

By GLENN R. WEBB

It seems desirable to record some chance observations on the likenesses and differences of equal sized 2-2½ whorled young of *Helminthoglypta umbilicata* (Pilsbry) and *H. dupetithouarsi* (Deshayes). The young *umbilicata* are the offspring of adults received from Mr. Ernest N. Wilcox, who obtained them from ". . . under old logs in a swamp just back of the pump station of the Union Oil Co. at Santa Margarita, California." I am equally indebted to Mr. E. P. Chace for the *dupetithouarsi* specimens, the parent material being collected under brush and trash of an open pine grove near Point Pinos, Monterey County, California.

The unsought opportunity of studying the young of these two species was occasioned by the numerous viable eggs deposited by adults kept for anatomic studies. In view of the fact that I have not had extensive personal experience with these Western land snails, and that much of the literature is probably unknown to me, these observations may not be entirely new.

*Helminthoglypta umbilicata* young: The slightly indented nuclear section of the embryonic whorl occupies one-fourth revolution and is smooth, unpolished, and microscopically granular.